

JACOB DODD.

APRIL 11, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. McCUMBER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10579.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10579) granting an increase of pension to Jacob Dodd, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

The soldier, now 69 years of age, served as a private in Company I, Twentieth Iowa Infantry, from August 9, 1862, to July 8, 1865, when honorably discharged.

He was on detached service as boat guard from December 22, 1864, to discharge; and while the medical records of the War Department furnish no information as to any treatment while in the service, the company morning report for August 18, 1863, shows him as "returned from hospital."

He is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total inability to earn a support, by reason of rheumatism and resulting heart disease.

His claim to pension under the general law, filed in October, 1882, and based upon rheumatism alleged to have been contracted in August and September, 1864, was rejected in October, 1903, upon the ground of no record of treatment in the service, no satisfactory evidence of origin or existence of the disability at discharge, and claimant's apparent inability to establish his claim.

He furnished the affidavit of a bunkmate as to his being treated on a hospital boat in July or August, 1863, for a few days for rheumatism; the testimony of another comrade that he had rheumatism in 1864, and that of another one as to his being sick while in the service; the testimony of neighbors and acquaintances that he suffered from or complained of rheumatism ever since his discharge, and medical testimony as to treatment for the disease ever since 1883.

In 1895 he had a stroke of paralysis of the left side, has been confined to his bed ever since 1900; has paresis, no mind at all, and requires the constant care and attention of another person; in fact, he has to be waited on as a child, and is mentally incompetent.

When last examined, in January, 1903, the board of surgeons found "his right side, upper and lower extremities wholly helpless from chronic hemiplegic condition. Mobility of joints so much limited that no crepitation can be detected by passive motion, and voluntary motion is nil. Stiffness of shoulder joints such that elbows can not be moved from body only by 6 inches; forearm is permanently

flexed across stomach; wrist joint shows the hand flexed to almost a right angle to forearm; the thumb and three external fingers are rather firmly closed upon the palm, etc.

"The claimant being in bed and on his back most of the time the right leg is in an extended position, and hip, knee, and ankle joints have become nearly immovable, etc.

"Can not protrude tongue, which is tremulous; muscles of voice seem affected as he is unable to talk. It is alleged he has been confined to the house for three and one-half years and bedridden for two years. Has to be lifted from bed to chair and from chair to bed. Can not stand on feet without firm support of another person, etc."

Papers on file in the Pension Bureau show that he is in a destitute condition.

He served faithfully for nearly three years, and his deplorable physical and financial condition, as exhibited by the evidence, appeals strongly for relief, and your committee are of the opinion that his pension should be increased to \$30 per month, the highest rate allowed under the rules in cases of this kind.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.

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